

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 H-03 SP-03 IGA-02 PC-10 DODE-00

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TRSE-00 OMB-01 DRC-01 SS-20 NSC-07 INRE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 /123 W

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O 192205Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8273

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT AU PRINCE 1369

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, HA

SUBJECT: SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE HEARINGS ON HAITI

REF: PORT-AU-PRINCE 1361

1. FOLLOWING SUPPLEMENTS REFTEL AND PROVIDES CT COMMENTS
ON SUMMARY RECOMMENDATIONS OF SENATOR BROOKE'S REPORT RELATING
TO PEACE CORPS PROGRAM FOR HAITI AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE.

2. PEACE CORPS PROGRAM. WE CONCUR WITH THE RECOMMENDATION
THAT SERIOUS EFFORTS SHOULD BE MADE TO INSTITUTE A PEACE CORPS
PROGRAM FOR HAITI. IN POINT OF FACT, CONTINUING EFFORTS TO
INTEREST GOH IN SUCH A PROGRAM HAVE BEEN MADE SINCE LATE 1973,
WHEN PEACE CORPS OFFICIALS CONSULTED WITH GOH OFFICIALS TO
EXPLORE GOVT'S RECEPTIVITY. BASED ON FAVORABLE REACTIONS
EMBASSY HAS SUBMITTED TO GOH MODEL AGREEMENTS FOR INSTITUTING
PROGRAM AND HAS RAISED SUBJECT PERIODICALLY AT HIGH LEVEL.
ALTHOUGH, AS NOTED IN REPORT, PRESIDENT DUVALIER EXPRESSED HIS
OWN RECEPTIVITY TO IDEA DURING CONVERSATION WITH SENATOR BROOKE,
NECESSARY FORMAL RESPONSE FROM GOH HAS THUS FAR NOT BEEN
FORTHCOMING. EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE TO RAISE MATTER AT
APPROPRIATE HIGH LEVELS AND SEEK TRANSLATE RECEPTIVITY
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EXPRESSED BY PRESIDENT INTO FIRM DECISION PERMITTING

INSTITUTION OF MODEST PEACE CORPS PROGRAM IN FY 75. (FYI. RELUCTANCE OF GOH TO COME TO FIRM DECISION ON THIS ISSUE MAY BE CONNECTED WITH REPORTED ACTIVITIES OF FRENCH "COOPERANTS" SERVING PRIMARILY AS TEACHERS WHO IN SOME INSTANCES TAKE IT UPON THEMSELVES TO ENGAGE IN ACTIVITIES OF A POLITICAL CHARACTER. WHENEVER SUCH INSTANCES HAVE COME TO LIGHT, OFFENDING "COOPERANTS" HAVE BEEN PROMPTLY SHIPPED OUT, BUT SUCH INCIDENTS ILLUSTRATE NECESSITY TO PROCEED WITH ALL DUE RESPECT FOR HAITIAN SENSITIVITIES.)

3. MILITARY ASSISTANCE. EMBASSY CONCURS THAT THERE IS MERIT IN HELPING THE HAITIANS DEVELOP A SEARCH AND SEA RESCUE CAPACITY ON THE GROUNDS THAT HAITI COULD ASSUME SOME OF THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR SEA RESCUE IN THE AREA NOW BEING CARRIED OUT BY THE UNITED STATES ALONE. THE NEED OF SUCH CAPACITY WILL INCREASE GIVEN THE TREND OF INCREASING NUMBER OF SMALL, PRIVATELY OWNED U.S. PLANES AND BOATS VISITING HAITIAN TERRITORIAL WATERS. THIS CAPACITY WOULD BE ADDITIONALLY USEFUL IN CONTROLLING NARCOTICS TRAFFIC IN THE AREA. AT PRESENT THE HAITIAN NAVY, CONSISTING OF THREE ILL-EQUIPPED BOATS AND INSUFFICIENTLY TRAINED PERSONNEL, CANNOT CONDUCT SEARCH AND SEA RESCUE MISSIONS EFFECTIVELY AND SYSTEMATICALLY. A MODERATE TRAINING PROGRAM WOULD ASSIST HAITI TO PERFORM THESE MISSIONS ITSELF AND IN THE EMBASSY'S VIEW WOULD CONSTITUTE VALID JUSTIFICATION FOR GRANT TRAINING PROGRAM AT LEVEL PROPOSED IN FY 75 CONGRESSIONAL PRESENTATION DOCUMENT.

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